IT Radix Resource

We make IT work for you

There's No Place Like Home

"There's no place like home"… That iconic line from *The Wizard of Oz* is absolutely true because at home we feel safe and secure. But when we travel and bring along our devices that safe zone is far behind us. As Dorothy ventured on her journey, she had no idea of the characters and threats she would meet on her way to Oz. Luckily, Dorothy had her ruby slippers for protection.

If you venture beyond your digital home this summer, beware of the cyber villains lurking around every bend in the road. The Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and Scarecrow are all wonderful characters; but in the real world of summer travels, some characters you encounter are far more nefarious.

Heartless Hacker (Tin Man)

Avoid this cold, heartless, calculating criminal. He is not interested in you. He wants your data and uses malware, phishing scams, ransomware and more to steal your information and/or to lock you out of your protected data files. Be especially skeptical of any emails you receive when traveling. You are more vulnerable to clicking yourself into a problem when you are on the road. He hides malware in public charging stations and on unsecured devices that you might be tempted to use when you are in a hurry. Protect yourself from the Tin Man:

- Use only your own charger and power bank, never a public USB charging station.
- Exercise caution with all emails and text messages, especially those asking for credentials of any kind.
- Keep all security software updated and use Multi-Factor Authentication.

Opportunistic Thief (Cowardly Lion)

Beware of this cowardly petty thief. This bad guy does not have the sophistication or cunning of the hacker, but he takes advantage of physical opportunities to garner treasures. He is the one who grabs your unattended phone or laptop. He might also try to shoulder surf and steal your passwords while seemingly sipping an espresso in a café. Protect yourself from the Cowardly Lion:

Take Note

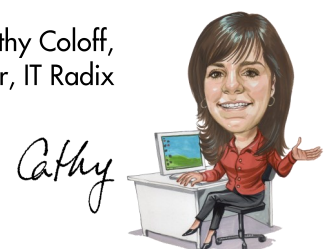### Going Abroad? Turn Off Uber's Preferred Pricing

If you're traveling abroad this summer, turn off Uber's new **Preferred Currency Pricing** feature that sneakily adds a 1.5% conversion fee. It keeps prices in your home currency but makes you pay more. Here's how to turn it off:

Open the Uber app > Account > Wallet > Preferred Currency > No preferred currency

Core Value: Have Fun!

Who says you can't have fun at work? We love what we do, and we love to laugh. Adding a little humor and fun to both our clients' and our day makes it even better.

— Cathy Coloff,
Owner, IT Radix

Cathy

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Talk Nerdy to Me

Reduce Distractions with Focus Assist

Stay focused by removing annoying app, email, and social media notifications.

Reduce distractions with **Microsoft's Focus Assist!** This handy feature helps you stay focused by silencing pesky app, email, and social media notifications.

1. Open the **Start Menu** and select the **Settings** icon ⚙
2. Select **System**
3. Select **Focus Assist**

From here, choose which notifications you want to see and hear. It's a simple way to boost your productivity and keep your attention on what matters most.
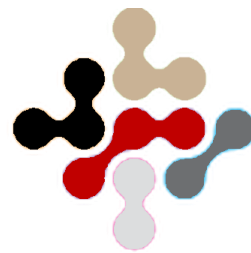
New Software Considerations

In *Tron: Legacy*, there's a line—"It's not a bug, it's a feature"—delivered with a wink. IT folks often use it jokingly to explain quirky software behavior. But for a small business rolling out new software, it's not so funny when that "feature" disrupts operations.

New tools can boost efficiency and improve customer experience, but they also bring change—and change can be tricky. In *Tron: Legacy*, the Grid is always evolving but also fragile—one wrong move and the system falters. It's the same with business software. Whether it's a custom CRM, point-of-sale system, or mobile app, making changes without proper planning can lead to bugs, downtime, and stressed-out employees.

To make the most of new software, keep these tips in mind:

- **Solve Real Problems First.** Ask yourself: Does this fix a pain point for my team or clients? If not, it might be more distraction than help.

- **Test Before Launch.** Use a test environment to trial new tools in small groups before going live.

- **Protect the Core.** Don't let new features disrupt what your business relies on most.

- **Lean on Experts.** A trusted IT partner like IT Radix can help you choose and roll out software smoothly and safely.

Tron: Legacy reminds us that even in a high-tech world, stability matters. So, the next time you hear "It's not a bug, it's a feature," smile—but make sure it's truly a feature that works for your business. IT Radix is your trusted IT partner when it comes to implementing new software.

Smooth Sailing Ahead with Windows 11

Windows 10 reaches its end of life (EOL) on October 14, 2025. Operating this software after this date is an open invitation to attackers. Let's get moving early and migrate to Windows 11 to ensure smooth sailing ahead.

Let IT Radix help you migrate to Windows 11 before the end of August and receive a 5% discount on labor.

www.it-radix.com/5percent

Special Offer: 5% discount on Windows 11 migration labor (expires 8/31/25)
new clients only

There's No Place Like Home

- Never, under zero circumstances, leave your devices unattended.
- Always use strong/new passwords and biometric locks and/or a passkey for access.
- Before you travel, enable security features on your devices such as remote wipe and device tracking.
- Use anti-theft bags and locked compartments when available.

Misinformation Master (Scarecrow)

Confusion and urgency are the tactics of the shady Scarecrow. He wants you to be as confused as he is(n't). Anything that facilitates you sharing your credentials or clicking on something malicious is his modus operandi. This criminal is the Lord of the Fakes, impersonating familiar website and Wi-Fi network names. He wants you to react to his pop-up or call that tells you of an urgent problem you need to address RIGHT NOW! He also favors other social media scams like fake travel deals. Protect yourself from the Scarecrow:

- Verify Wi-Fi networks before connecting—confirm the correct name with multiple hotel staff (not just one).
- Never click on any pop-up alert claiming your device is infected.
- Question any deal or offer that has that too-good-to-be-true feel.
- Leverage VPN and MFA on any public network that you must use.

Dorothy's companions helped her find her way home. But in the digital world, you must be prepared. As your summer adventures commence, remember that IT Radix is here to ensure you're armed and aware, enabling you to outsmart the bad guys, so you can click your heels safely back to your digital home.

Interesting Fact:

In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy's ruby slippers were her ticket home. In real life, one pair was stolen from the Judy Garland Museum in 2005, taking the FBI 13 years to recover. This isn't just a quirky piece of Hollywood history—it's a cautionary tale. In today's digital world, your data, devices, and credentials are your ruby slippers. Lose them, and you could find yourself far from home with no easy way back.

OK to Have Favorites

Here are some handy tips to help you stay on top of your messages even when things get busy:

- You can drag and drop to reorder Favorites or move items between Sections, giving you total control. These features are especially helpful when you're juggling multiple conversations and want to focus on what's unread or urgent.

- If you've read a message but aren't ready to respond, you can mark it as *unread* to remind yourself to follow up later.

With these handy tools, Microsoft Teams just made staying connected—and organized—a whole lot easier!

Trivia Contest

The first person to send an email to resource@it-radix.com with the correct answer to our trivia question will win a $50 movie theater gift card!

Q:
"You're gonna need a bigger boat!" is a quote from which movie?

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Inside This Issue

- How to recognize and avoid cyber villains while traveling

- Tips for making the most of new software

- Reduce distractions with Microsoft's Focus Assist

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IT Radix Family and Friends
321 Delighted Clients Drive
Geekville, NJ USA

"If you can dream it, you can do it."

— Walt Disney

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FIND MY CAT

OPENING CAN

SHAKING TREATS

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It's OK to Have Favorites

If you're a frequent Teams user, you'll love the new **Favorites** and **Sections** features—they're designed to help you stay organized and quickly access what matters most.

Favorites work just like bookmarks in your web browser. You can pin chats or channels you use the most, keeping them right at the top of your Teams panel for quick access. Whether it's a colleague you chat with daily or a project channel you're always checking, adding it to Favorites means it won't get lost as new messages come in. You can even reorder your Favorites by simply dragging and dropping them, making it easy to prioritize your view.

Sections take organization to the next level. Think of them as custom folders that let you group related chats and channels together. You can create Sections for departments, projects, clients, or even fun themes— like "One Big Happy Family." This makes your Teams workspace cleaner and more efficient, especially when you're juggling multiple conversations.